

Founded as a settlement in the 1830s, Prichard was incorporated as a city in 1925. During World War II, it became home to many who worked for the shipbuilding companies in Mobile.

The closing of Brookley Air Force Base in the late 1960s, followed by the closings of Scott and International Paper companies in the early 1990s, cost many Prichard residents their jobs and forced them to move away from the city. In 1999, the city filed for Chapter 9 bankruptcy protection in federal court, revealing the city owed \$5.3 million to creditors. Over the last eight years, the city has been paying this debt with quarterly payments—some as much as \$1.5 million.

Madam Speaker, the residents of Prichard, Alabama, have firmly rooted themselves in their proud history, but they also keep an optimistic and careful eye on the road ahead. I have no doubt that the consistent leadership and inspired vision of today's residents will lead to great success in the coming years.

I ask my colleagues to join me in commending the city of Prichard as well as the leadership of Mayor Ron Davis and the city council. It is my hope that Prichard enjoys continued prosperity, and it is my distinct pleasure to represent this community in the United States House of Representatives.

#### A PROCLAMATION HONORING THE 200TH BIRTHDAY OF FREDERICKTOWN

### HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2007

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Fredericktown will celebrate the 200th birthday with great joy; and

Whereas, they will reflect on the past 200 years with fondness and celebrate; and

Whereas, Fredericktown will reminisce on a lifetime full of memories and look forward to many more; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I wish Fredericktown a happy 200th birthday.

#### TRIBUTE TO MIKE BUNNER

### HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2007

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mike Bunner of Buckhannon, WV, who recently attained the rank of Eagle Scout on November 12, 2007. He is the son of Roy Michael Bunner and Jennifer Lee Bunner.

Mike is a member of Boy Scout Troop 106 and is sponsored by Sand Run Baptist Church in Buckhannon, WV. He has been involved in scouting since August of 2004. During his time in Boy Scouts, he has earned 31 Merit Badges and was awarded the prestigious Order of the Arrow. For his Eagle Scout project, Mike constructed a play area for a local Christian school.

Mike is truly a representative of the Scout Oath, "to do duty to God and country." He has

been involved with the 4-H Club for six years where he has excelled in leadership and community service activities. He is also a member of his church's youth group.

His many accomplishments demonstrate the high standards held by those who achieve Eagle Scout. I extend my congratulations to Mike and look forward to his future accomplishments.

#### TRIBUTE TO A. JAMES CLARK ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 80TH BIRTHDAY

### HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2007

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary individual, who celebrated, on December 2, 2007, one of society's milestones, his 80th birthday. From a humble beginning as a student on a state scholarship at the University of Maryland, Jim rose to head one of the leading construction companies in the United States. Professionally, his lifetime has been filled with magnificent buildings and public spaces; his less-public achievements have been equally successful. Jim Clark is an individual of great kindness and generosity, exemplified by his philanthropic efforts. He has given generously and without reservation to his alma mater, his community and his country. By brilliant example, Jim Clark's flames of achievement have built a better world, and in so doing, have lighted the way for all of us. Jim also has been blessed with his wife Alice, his 3 children and 10 grandchildren. We wish this truly remarkable man all the love and happiness he deserves on this special occasion.

#### THE ECONOMIC COSTS OF AN UNHEALTHY AMERICA

### HON. DAN BOREN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2007

Mr. BOREN. Madam Speaker, recently, the Milken Institute released what I believe to be a landmark study on the cost to the United States from the startling growth of chronic disease in this nation. Its findings are eye-opening:

More than half of all Americans suffer from one of more of the following diseases—cancer, diabetes, hypertension, stroke, heart disease, pulmonary conditions or mental disorders.

Over the past 20 years we have spent trillions of dollars in research and treatment on these diseases, improving both treatment and mortality outcomes but the rates of chronic disease continue to climb.

If no changes are instituted, within 16 years, 2023, there will be a 42 percent increase in the number of cases.

The cost to the American economy will be \$4.2 trillion in treatment costs and lost productivity, with lost productivity accounting for 81 percent of all costs.

Improving Americans' health behaviors through anti-obesity and anti-smoking efforts

can save the U.S. \$1.6 trillion in treatment and lost productivity, decrease the number of cases by 40 million and improve gross domestic product by \$254 billion.

Let me put these numbers into some kind of perspective. The \$4.2 trillion cost to the economy if nothing changes is greater than the current gross domestic product of France, the United Kingdom and Spain combined. That amount is greater than the current GDPs of either Africa or Latin America and not much lower than the GDPs of the two continents combined.

The recommendations of the Milken Institute, which describes itself as an independent economic think tank, center on ensuring that incentives in the health care system focus on prevention and early disease intervention and that we commit as a nation to achieving a "healthy body weight."

Madam Speaker, all of us bear some responsibility in combating these diseases—individuals, non-governmental organizations, governments, corporations, the medical community and the insurance industry. But we here in Congress also bear a special responsibility to remove any federal disincentives to promoting good physical well-being. We set policy; we set the tone for the Nation on any issue. Pending before this body are two pieces of legislation to promote physical fitness, a key component of prevention and a central means of achieving a healthy body weight, the Workforce Health Improvement Program Act (H.R. 1748). If enacted, this legislation would remove federal barriers to the promotion of physical activity and move our health care system ever more to one that emphasizes prevention over disease treatment.

As the Milken Institute's study so strongly shows, there are great costs ahead if we do nothing, but great savings to be gained if we act. Passage of this legislation would help us achieve a healthier America. I urge enactment this legislation.

#### CONGRESS MUST RESPOND TO THE NEEDS OF THE LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYED

### HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2007

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address a problem of growing importance: the problem of long-term unemployment.

I recently received a letter from a constituent, who urged me to speak out on behalf of workers unable to find appropriate jobs at living wages, who are being excluded from productive participation in the workforce. She called for Congressional action.

Jean SmilingCoyote of Chicago wrote, "When unemployed Americans run out of unemployment compensation, they are counted neither as unemployed nor as part of the labor force. . . . We need to take pro-active steps to end long-term unemployment of Americans. The first step is to have these people identify themselves and what they can contribute economically. We have to persuade employers to hire them for appropriate jobs at living wages, starting with people who've gotten a good education and stayed out of trouble."